base, which its consulting firm was able to develop. Other towns will undoubtedly realize that the classification system has an enormous value for local planning.

Colorado

Using survey results and evaluations of other state programs, the Colorado Department of Health (CDH), between August 1983 and September 1984, developed a list of alternative ground water protection goals and a way to achieve the goal selected (CDH 1984). The alternatives considered for a goal were as follows:

1. Maintain existing beneficial uses.
2. Maintain existing and potential beneficial uses.
3. Maintain existing quality.
4. Utilize selective nondegradation of existing quality for certain pollutants.
5. Allow limited degradation of existing quality on a case-specific basis.
6. Formulate a flexible framework to achieve diverse purposes.
7. Continue with no common direction or purpose.

Each goal was evaluated on the basis of three criteria: (1) protection of public health, (2) prevention or control of contamination, and (3) ensuing utilization of ground water. An ad hoc advisory committee of industrial, governmental, and CDH representatives selected goal 6.

In May 1984, the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission (CWQCC) made a final statement of their goal: "The goal of the Water Quality Control Commission is to provide the maximum beneficial use of ground water resources, while assuring safety of the users by preventing or controlling those activities which have the potential to impair existing or future beneficial uses of ground water or to adversely affect the public health."

Regulatory Options for Implementing and Achieving the Goal

Six options for implementing the CWQCC goal were evaluated by the CDH and advisory committees. These were as follows:

1. Formulate classifications and numeric standards of ground water bodies.
2. Require regulations to control waste discharge.
3. Require site-specific permits with effluent limitations.
4. Institute site-specific permits with adequate design criteria.